

August 15, 2016

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OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE

U.S. EPA  
ATTN: Harbor Comments  
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500  
Portland, OR 97205

AUG 15 2016

EPA-REGION 10

I am a 33-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, and I live in the same neighborhood in Southwest Portland I grew up in. I believe the Willamette River cleanup proposal is a serious mistake. It does not approach making sense to resurface buried pollutants and risk contaminating the river all over again. That would endanger the people and wildlife of Portland for no discernible reason. The EPA should devise a plan that builds upon natural decontamination rather than reversing it.

The fact that such an unworkable plan comes with a billion-dollar price tag is unbelievable. It is not reasonable to ask the people of Portland to pay higher taxes when you haven't arrived at the best solution. All that has happened ever since I moved back to Portland in 2003 is my taxes have gone up. I would be willing to pay more for a practical solution to a legitimate issue, but not to fulfill some fanciful scheme with no chance of success.

Closing the river for constant construction would put a major damper on the economy. Businesses on the waterfront would especially suffer because there would be little incentive to go there at all. Cleaning the Willamette River does not have to be such a major disruption to everything in Portland. What we need is a smaller-scale solution that actually achieves its goal without demanding tremendous sacrifices of the residents and businesses of Portland.

Sincerely,

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Portland, OR 97219